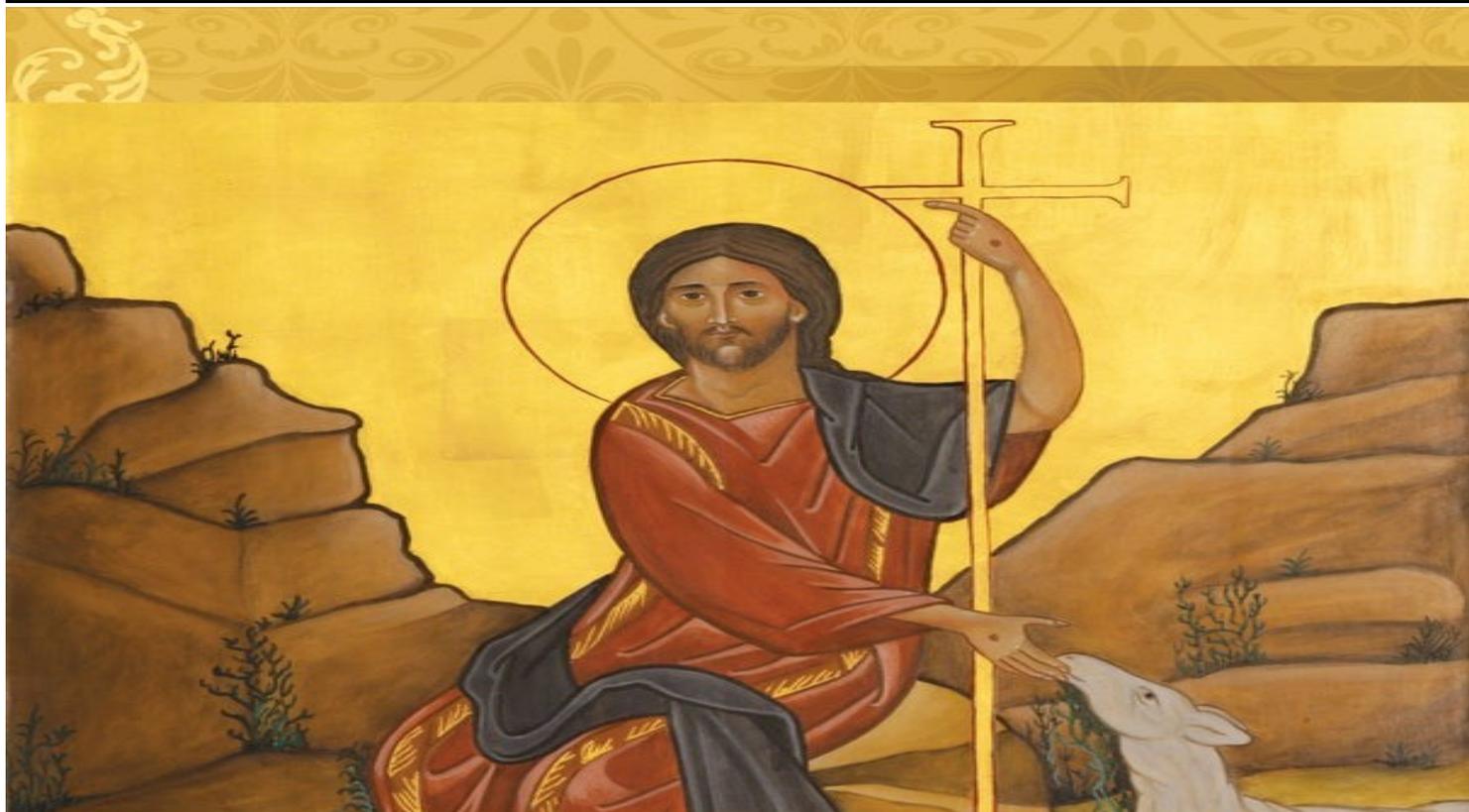


**St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish**

**Sunday Mass: 9:00am Confession : Thursday 4:00-5:00pm**

**406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208 Office (315) 478-0916 Fax (315) 423-8096**

**February 15, 2026**



## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.'" Mt 5:20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

OLPI

**Office Hours SJB/HT**

**Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-4:00pm**

**Friday 9:00am-2:30pm**

**Pastor: Fr. Brendan Foley**

**Secretary/Bulletin Editor: Nancy Bergeson**

**Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley**

**Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren**

**Religious Education: Betty Warren**

**Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard**

**Altar Servers: Benjamin Chouinard**

**Alyssa Warren & Cecilia Judge**

**Parish Council President: David William**

**Trustees: Gerald Mott & John Cannizzaro**

**E-mail - [nbergeson@syrdio.org](mailto:nbergeson@syrdio.org)**

**Web Site - [www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com)**

**Syr. Dio. Web-site - [www.syracusediocese.org](http://www.syracusediocese.org)**

**Please call the rectory to arrange marriages, six months prior to date, we will provide information to you for our organist, baptisms and hospital/home visits.**

### **St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Friday Lenten Fish Dinners 4:30-7:00pm**

**In conjunction with the Pastimes Athletic Club our popular Friday Lenten Fish Dinners will be back.**

Pastime Athletic club 1314 N. Salina St. enter on the parking lot side of the club, **not** the back door like last year.

**Dinner Dates**

**Wednesday Feb. 18th**

**Friday Feb. 20th & 27th Friday March 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th**

**Menu**

**Dinners \$12 Baked, Broiled & Fried Fish w/choice 2 sides French fries, mac & cheese, cole slaw, Mega meal \$18 choice fish and all sides, Fried fish sandwich w/fries \$12, available (price TBA) kids meal chicken tenders fries or mac & cheese and soup TBA.**



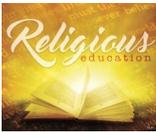
### From Fr. Brendan Foley

Oftentimes people accuse us as Catholics as just having a lot of “rules,”--and in fairness sometimes we as Catholics sometimes *live* our lives as disciples just exteriorly following rules or observance after observance without ever putting much heart or thought into why it is that we do the things we do. Our readings today though are quite important for our consideration, because we have to be challenged in our understanding of how we approach our moral lives. And so, certainly an obvious theme across the readings today is the “Law of the Lord” and our response to it. We will probably cringe a little bit, or feel some discomfort thinking about the subject, because it’s a little easier for us to imagine a loosey-goosey Jesus, or a laid back Jesus who just says nice things and loves all and...well, you know what I mean!

Jesus has no desire though, as we hear proclaimed today, to water anything down. In fact, he does quite the opposite. First he teaches that he has come “*not* to abolish the law and prophets, but rather to *fulfill* them” (cf. Mt. 5:17). Meaning he’s not doing away with what was asked of the Lord’s covenant people of old, but instead he’s elevating and getting even more to the heart of what the law and the prophets established. Case and point, as we hear, it’s not simply enough to “not kill someone” but rather even to harbor anger in our hearts towards another, this is a danger to us. One’s permanence of commitment in marriage is more than just refraining from being with any other person besides your spouse, but more so not even *looking* at another in lust or an objectifying kind of way--this is a danger even if one never acts on such desires! Jesus upholds and even calls us to a higher level of love than what was merely written in the law--and yes, this is not easy, and yes, Jesus knows that.

Our reading from the book of Sirach pays attention to the reality that you and I have freedom to choose whether or not we respond to the life that the Lord calls us to (or not). God doesn’t give anyone “license to sin” and in freedom he places before us the opportunity to come to know true life, and true relationship. Sin is our freely choosing to live against how the Lord calls us in relationship with him, with our neighbor, with ourselves. Sin has a splintering effect on our hearts and souls, it quite literally disintegrates us, and so we would (and should) expect the Lord to be firm in his desire to protect us and prevent us from falling into sin. How do we follow through on this difficult and narrow road? So often we have the desire and intention to live the Gospel and so many times we fall short. Let’s not be discouraged.

We can find encouragement and motivation from the catechism that rightly observes Jesus himself (as he is the *fulfillment* of the law and prophets) is **the only one who could keep [the law] perfectly (CCC 578)**. It is not in our human power alone to be able to live the perfection of the life of discipleship. However! This cannot be our excuse. Jesus himself desires to pour out the Holy Spirit upon us that makes the life of discipleship POSSIBLE. It is *his* life alive in us that makes us able to live the commandments of the Lord, to live the high level of love that we are called to. So if we are struggling to live a particular law of charity of the Gospel, we must ask and invoke the Holy Spirit to assist us...Jesus will not withhold his grace from the heart that seeks to be united to His. May we trust anew this day that the law of the Lord leads us to life, saves us from sin, and fills us with joy!



### Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed classes this week Feb. 15th or next week Feb. 22nd for Winter Recess. Classes will resume on March 1st. Please pray for our students, and teachers as they continue their education programs. Please especially pray for our 5 Confirmation 1 students, who are preparing to be confirmed in 2027 and our 6 first Communion students who will receive the Sacrament of First Communion on May 10th.

#### Lector - Feb. 15, 2026

Mary Barraco

#### Lector - Feb. 22, 2026

Pat Minnoe

#### Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary’s Side</u>
Feb. 15th	Karen Fekete	Mary Beth Cusano
Feb. 22nd	Cathy Horton	Larry Argiro



### Live The Liturgy - Inspiration For The Week

Jesus does not want us to live within the law — he wants the law to live within us. God’s law, fulfilled by His Son, is rich soil. We must let it nourish the words and the decisions of our Christian life — only then will it flow forth into the world. ©LPi



### Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Blessing of Love

Heavenly Father, Ignite us with Your love. Reveal to us Your will, guide us in Your path. Pour Your blessings upon us, You who are the giver of every good thing. Help us to live, work, act, and speak in ways that bring honor and glory to You. Amen. ©LPi



### paFISHioner Sponsor 2026

With the exciting return of our fish dinners we are bringing back our “paFISHioner” sponsor as well. Sponsorship is \$25.00, or other amount, and a paFISHioner sponsor sheet will be on the tables at the Pastime Club. Please either mail a check and the filled our form below to SJB/HT 406 Court Street Syr. NY 13208, or drop an envelope in the collection basket marked to Nancy’s attention. Please do not put it in your regular collection envelope. Sponsorship will be accepted from now until the end of the dinners.

Form

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





**9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT**  
**February 15, 2026** - Joy Wittwer - Michel Witter  
 John Butwin - Mary Callahan  
 Rose Mary Connors - Daughters  
 Virginia Frigon - The Cannizzaro Family  
**February 22, 2026** - David McLaughlin - Mother  
 Bob Greenwood - The Family  
 Albert Bleskoski, Jr. The Family

**Ash Wednesday**  
**Wednesday February 18th**  
 Mass schedule and Ashes will be distributed as follows:  
 OLP/SP - 9:00am  
 SJB/HT - 12:15pm



**Stations of the Cross**  
 At SJB/HT we will offer stations **Fridays of Lent at 4:00pm then join us at the Pastime Club for dinner, and also before our Sunday Mass at 8:40am.** Looking for leaders to read each station either at the podium or while walking around each station with the portable mic. Parishioners are welcome to walk each station as well. So we need leaders for **February 22nd, March 1st, March 8th, March 15th and March 22nd.** Please contact Nancy at the rectory 315-478-0916. Thank you.



**Virtues Explained**  
**Gentleness, Explained!**  
 As followers of Christ, we are commanded to “always be prepared to offer an explanation ... to justify the hope that is in you.”



But the success of that evangelism hinges entirely on the very next instructions this passage contains: “However, do so with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).

The word “gentleness” has come to be associated with softness and fragility — but there is no virtue that requires greater strength. As one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, gentleness disposes us to receive the inspirations of the Spirit, who “reveals to men who Jesus is” (CCC 152). In cultivating a spirit of gentleness, we more closely resemble Christ, who was unflinchingly gentle, even in the face of violence and death.

“Every virtue is a good thing, but most of all gentleness and meekness,” said St. John Chrysostom. “This shows us men; this makes us to differ from wild beasts; this fits us to vie with Angels.” ©LPi

**A Family Perspective**  
**Family Life Education**



To experience the peace which Christ promises we must shed our grudges, jealousy and feelings of being misunderstood, unappreciated or ignored. Peace and anger don't mix. Today's Gospel wans, if you want peace in your heart and home, get rid of your anger. Anger is too costly.

**Pray For Vocations**

Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles. If God's calling you to follow him, be prepared for a long walk! If you feel that God is calling you, please Email: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org) and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).



**Rectory Closed**  
 SJB/HT and OLP/SP rectories will be closed on Monday February 16th due to President's Day holiday. There is no 9:00am mass at OLP/SP.



The Bread and Wine is offered in memory of **Antonio & David McLaughlin**  
 Requested by Mother



**Sacrificial Giving**  
 Collection Feb. 8th: \$3,043.00



**Reflect: Readings and Gospel**

**1st Reading Question:** Sirach speaks of the human freedom to choose between good and evil and of God's desire for us to act justly. What good could you do this week for a friend or family member?

**2nd Reading Question:** Paul teaches that God reveals His wisdom to us through the Holy Spirit. How might you be more open to listening to the Holy Spirit in your daily life?

**Gospel Question:** Jesus offers stern warnings against breaking the commandments, holding grudges, committing adultery, divorcing your spouse, and falsifying oaths. Why do you think Jesus holds us to such high moral expectations?



**Parishioners, please look through this list for any names that should be removed. Also, if you have a loved one to request for prayers call the office to have their name added.**



**Remember:** Mike Affleck, Shawn Babcock, Nancy Bailey, Jack Brien, B.J. Bubniak Family, Arlene Bukowski, Ashley Caiello, Robert Capria, Catherine Cushman, Linda Deapo, Theresa Domathowski, Hank Donohue, Ginny & Erin Donovan, Tenley Farrow, Marilyn Ferretti, Ellen Gangemi, Gladys Graham, Joseph Guinto, Jeanne Hammond, Mary Isgar, Carla Johnson, Tony Lauretti, Shirley Kerr, Emma Lane, Kay Ledermann, Jackie Limeri, Luciano Luisi, Steven Malkoski, Judy & Skip Marioritti, Michael & Darlene Morga, Diane Moro, Peggy Palerino, The Pavia Children, Antoinette Perotta, Faith Setzer, Marion Sherwood, Esther Sindoni, John Sobon, Patricia Soule, Timothy K. Suppes, Patrick St. Thomas IV, Barbara Traino, Shelly Visco, Matthew Watkins, Fred Wheeler and Carol Young. **We also remember in our prayers our Service Men and Women & our Health Care Workers. Due to HIPAA laws, hospitals are not allowed to give names of patients. Please notify the parish office if you have a loved one in the hospital, a nursing home or is homebound and would like a visit.**

**Contribution Statements**

If you require a SJB/HT Contribution Statement of your church donations for 2025 taxes, please contact the rectory during office hours, 315-478-0916, email at [nbergeson@syrdio.org](mailto:nbergeson@syrdio.org) or fill in the slip below and send to SJB/HT 406 Court St. Syr. NY 13208, or, save a stamp and put your request in a plain envelope and put it into the collection basket attention “Nancy”.

**PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR REQUEST INTO YOUR CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 C/S/Z: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

